

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MERIDA 00185 262023Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01

FBIE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 ARAE-00 /068 W

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P R 261730Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL MERIDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 947

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS MERIDA 0185

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: TERRORISM: ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF CUBAN CONSUL IN MERIDA

1. LATE IN THE AFTERNOON ON FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1976, THREE MEN ATTEMPTED TO KIDNAP OR KILL THE CUBAN CONSUL IN MERIDA, DANIEL FERRER FERNANDEZ. THE CONSUL ESCAPED INTO A BAR, BUT HIS COMPANION, ARTAGNAN DIAZ Y DIAZ, WAS SHOT TO DEATH. DIAZ WAS A CUBAN FISHING TECHNICIAN WORKING AT CIUDAD DEL CARMEN, CAMPECHE. THE MEN ESCAPED IN A RENTAL CAR.

2. IN THE MANHUNT THAT FOLLOWED, THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE QUICKLY PICKED-UP AT THE AIRPORT A MAN FIRST IDENTIFIED AS MANUEL ALLEN, JR. ALLEGEDLY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. IT LATER TURNED OUT ALLEN WAS REALLY ORESTES RUIZ HERNANDEZ, A CUBAN REFUGEE RESIDENT IN MIAMI AND REPORTEDLY NOT AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

3. RUIZ, UNDER QUESTIONING BY THE POLICE, QUICKLY IDENTIFIED THE OTHERS AS BEING GASPAS EUGENIO JIMENEZ AND GUSTAVO "TAVITO" CASTILLO OF THE FRENTE DE LIBERACION NACIONAL CUBANO, A MIAMI BASED ANTI-CASTRO ORGANIZATION.

4. ON SATURDAY, JULY 24, 1976, RUIZ WAS TRANSFERRED TO FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AND MOVED TO MEXICO CITY.

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PAGE 02 MERIDA 00185 262023Z

5. NEWSPAPERS NOW REPORT JIMENEZ WAS CAPTURED IN MEXICO CITY WHILE CASTILLO APPARENTLY STILL IS AT LARGE IN THE MERIDA AREA. THE CITIZENSHIP OF JIMENEZ AND CASTILLO IS UNKNOWN TO THE CONSULATE, BUT ARE REPORTED IN THE PRESS TO BE CUBAN REFUGEES RESIDENT IN MIAMI.

6. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTS THIS WAS TO BE THE FIRST ATTACK BY THIS ORGANIZATION IN A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN

AGAINST CUBAN DIPLOMATS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
ASHFORD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, CONSULS, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MERIDA00185
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760287-0351
From: MERIDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760722/aaaaaszd.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <23 DEC 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORISM: ATTEMPT ON LIFE OF CUBAN CONSUL IN MERIDA
TAGS: PINS, MX, CU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006